

For Immediate Release: March 26, 2007

Council Taking a Vote to Improve Downtown Safety

On Tuesday March 26th, the San Jose City Council will vote to significantly improve the public safety in the Entertainment District downtown. Pending approval of the motion, and building on the recommendations of the Downtown Working Group (DWG), city staff will have sixty days to return to Council with a specific plan to enhance San Jose's downtown nightlife experience.

Recommendations Outlined by the DWG

DWG co-chairs include Councilmember Forrest Williams and San Jose Police Chief Rob Davis, who along with downtown Councilmember Sam Liccardo, have been instrumental in developing the comprehensive strategy and recommendations to address this issue. Since late October 2005, they have worked collaboratively with nightclub owners, restaurant operators, and downtown residents to devise the recommendations appearing before Council tomorrow.

Four of the recommendations to be reviewed by city staff include: (1) diversifying and balancing late night entertainment with other uses in the downtown; (2) increasing security measures in the downtown core; (3) cost sharing among club owners to cover increased police costs; and (4) rezoning land while planning carefully for a high-quality, vibrant and diversified nightlife. For more information about the recommendations endorsed by the Downtown Working Group, visit:

http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/032707/032707_04.02.pdf

Why this Matters to San Jose Residents

High-density residential developments and a concentration of late-night entertainment venues press us to proactively address this issue. "This effort provides us with a crucial first step in addressing the need to better balance safety concerns with our interest in sustaining a vibrant downtown nightlife," said Sam Liccardo, who represents the downtown district on the San Jose City Council. "In the coming months, I expect to work closely with all of the stakeholders, including residents, nightclub owners, and the police, to ensure that we implement this program in an effective and equitable way."

Next Steps toward Implementation

As chair of the Downtown Working Group, Councilmember Williams similarly underscores the need for collaboration amongst all stakeholders. "We must make sure everyone is on the same page. We must educate the nightclub owners and share with them the City's vision for Downtown development." Councilmembers Liccardo and Williams have had recent conversations with downtown nightclub owners that show progress not only toward communicating openly, but working collaboratively towards a common solution.

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